

Dear FCC Commissioners Powell, Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and
Adelstein:

I am writing in opposition to your proposals to loosen the rules governing media ownership. When one owner, Clear Channel, controls 1200 radio stations in this country, you should be further limiting the rules of ownership not loosening them! According to Sen. Byron Dorgan, a study examined the nation's 44 top rated stations over a week and found that they broadcast 312 hours of conservative talk programming, compared with 11 hours of liberal shows. Not coincidentally, these stations are owned by only 5 companies. Is it any wonder that when I flick the radio dial I find Rush Limbaugh on 3 stations at once! Then I have to pass through Michael Reagan, Michael Savage, Oliver North and heaven knows how many other ultra conservatives who spew the same line until I find a single host, Peter Voyle (sp?), who broadcasts for a few hours weekdays from his middle-of-the-road perspective. I can only rarely find a liberal commentator, and when I do it is on a non-profit channel broadcast from the university in town. And you now plan to to lessen my choices by reducing the number of media owners?

I cry foul! Common sense tells all of us that this corporate swallow-up and consolidation of our media is a terrible action for our democracy. I urge you to all vote against it and even go further to try to break up the huge conglomerates we have right now so all viewpoints will be heard on our public airways.

Sincerely,

Penny Dumas
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